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The species composition and quantitative indicators of the sedentary birds, forming winter ornithocomplexes in the mountain-forest belt of Talish

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The article presents materials about the species composition, the number, the density, the distribution of the sedentary birds and the factors affecting them in the mountain-forest belt of Talish in winter in 2013-2016. 54 species belonging in 6 orders are noted in the part of the winter ornithocomplexes of the mountain-forest belt of Talish. The total number of the 54 species of the sedentary birds amounted to 149781 individuals. Of the 54 species that we noted, 8 species are rare, 17 are ordinary, 29 are numerous. 54 registered bird species have a global and national conservation status and are included in the lists of the CITES, Bonn and Bern Conventions. Only 6 (11.1%) of the 54 bird species have no conservation status. According to the species composition and the total number of the winter ornithocomplexes, the main dominant birds are the species belonging to the order of the Sparrows *(Passeriformes)*. These birds make up 66.7% (36 species) of all registered species and 84.3% (126209 individuals) of the total number of the birds. The dominant species in terms of the number of the individuals is the Common Greenfinch *(Chloris chloris)*. The main limiting factors are the felling the trees due to the construction of gas pipelines and roads to settlements, the creation of the recreation and the tourism zones in the forests, grazing and illegal hunting of the birds. Such an anthropogenic impact leads to a gradual reduction in the number of the habitats and places for feeding of vulnerable species.

Keywords: *Talish Mountains, sedentary birds, species, number, density, factor*

INTRODUCTION

The continuous, multi-year research work has not been conducted about the sedentary birds in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. E.Menetries (1830) made observations around Lankaran and Talish and gave a vertical distribution table of the birds (Menetries, 1832). N.Dinnik described the birds which he recorded in Lankaran and Talish Mountains in his articles written in 1889 and 1912 (Dinnik, 1899). In 1980, Ch.Aghayeva was satisfied with the general registration of the birds in the forest strip of Talish (Aghayeva, 1980). T.Karimov (2004) recorded a Cinereous Vulture (Karimov et al., 2019). The data of these authors are outdated in terms of modernity and do not allow to assess the current state of ornithofauna in the region. That is why, there is a need for research work to assess the current state of ornithofauna in the region.

Taking into account the above-mentioned, we studied the distribution, the species composition and the number of the sedentary birds forming winter ornithocomplexes in the mountain-forest belt of Talish.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The researches were conducted in the 12 stationaries with a total area of 60 km^2 in winter of 2013-2016 (Figure). 36 expeditions were organized to the research area and 110 working days were spent to the observations and registrations. The species of the birds were identified according to the identification books

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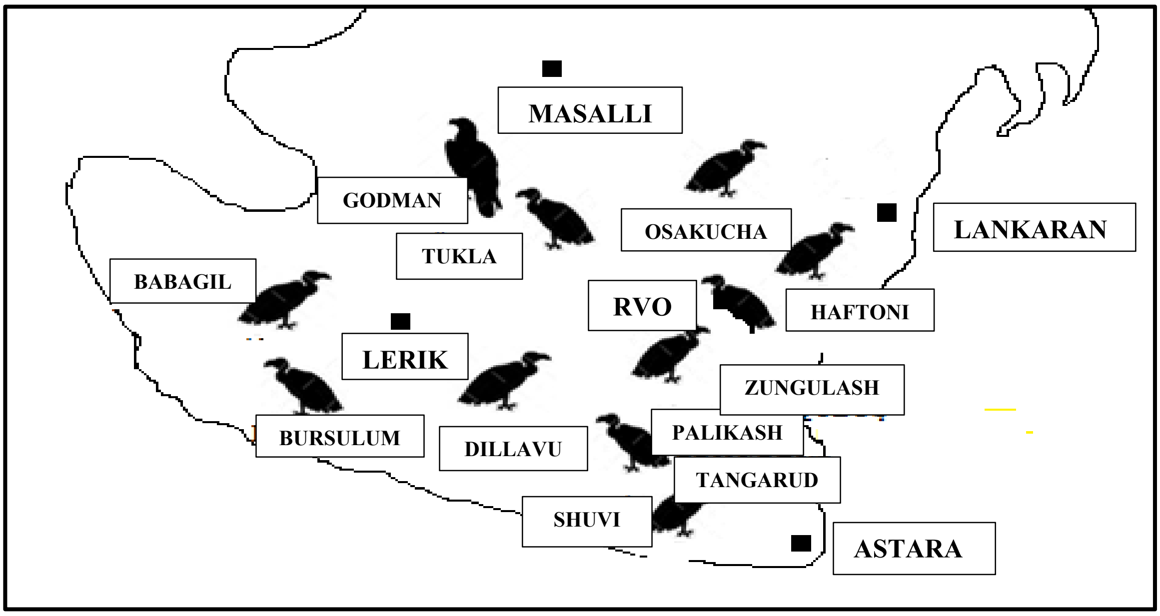


Fig. The schematic map of the research area.

(Mustafayev et al., 2005; Hermann et al., 1995) and the sounds of the birds. Route and the stationary observation methods were used (Sultanov et al., 2008). The category of the species by population density is based to A.P.Kuzyakin (Kuzyakin, 1962) and to G.T.Mustafayev (Mustafayev, 1985): a population of 0.1-0.9 individuals per 1 km^2 was accepted rare; a population of 1-9 individuals was accepted as ordinary, and a population of more than 10 individuals per area was accepted as numerous.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During research, 54 species of the birds with a total number of 149781 individuals were recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish (Table). In addition to 6 species, other species are the birds with protected status.

Of the 54 sedentary species, 8 species are rare, 17 are ordinary and 29 are numerous. Due to the differences the natural conditions of the stationaries where the research was conducted, we present a separate analysis of the ornithofauna there.

Zungulash. It is located in the North of the Astarachay bed. The habitat biotopes of the birds consists of the high tier forests, from the shrubberies, from the gardens next to the yard and from the plantations.

We have recorded 50 of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 17.5% (26160 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Shuvi. This stationary is located in the Astara region. The habitat biotopes of the birds consists of mainly from the shrubberies.

We have recorded 48 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In winter, 16.3% (24389 individuals) of the total number of the individuals (149781 individuals) settled in this area (Table).

Tangarud. This stationary is located 18 km North from the city of Astara, on the Baku-Astara highway, at the foot of the Talish Mountains.

We have recorded 50 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 7.4% (11073 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Palikash. This stationary is located 40 km from the center of the Astara region.

We have recorded 46 of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 5.5% (8299 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Haftoni. This stationary is an urban settlement located 12 km West of the Lankaran district.

We have recorded 47 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 15.3% (22866 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Rvo. This stationary is located on the Lankaran-Lerik highway, South-West of the center of the Lankaran region, near the mountain of Ballabur. We have recorded 49 of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 14.3% (21446 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Osakucha. This stationary is located 17 km West of the city of Lankaran, at the foot of the Talish Mountains, on the bank of the Veravulchay.

We have registered 42 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 4.6% (6910 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Table. The quantitative indicators of the sedentary birds in winter in the mountain-forest belt (individual) (2013-2016)

№	Species	Protection status	Astara				Lankaran			Lerik			Masalli		The total average number of the birds	The total average density of the birds
			Zungulash (7 km^2)	Shuvi (6 km^2)	Tangarud (5 km^2)	Palikash (5 km^2)	Haftoni (4 km^2)	Rvo (7 km^2)	Osakucha (3 km^2)	Bursulum (4 km^2)	Babagil (6 km^2)	Dillavu (4 km^2)	Tukla (4 km^2)	Godman (5 km^2)		
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**
1.	Eurasian Goshwak-*Accipiter gentilis*	RBA, CITES, Bern, Bonn	3	4	3	0	3	3	0	4	3	5	4	2	8,5	0,56
2.	Common Buzzard-*Buteo buteo*	CITES, Bern, Bonn	8	0	11	6	4	7	0	12	0	14	7	5	18,5	1,23
3.	Golden Eagle-*Aquila chrysaetos*	RBA, CITES, Bern, Bonn	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	4	0	3	2	0	3,5	0,23
4.	Black Vulture-*Aegypius monachus*	IUCN Red List, RBA, CITES, Bern, Bonn	0	0	4	0	0	5	0	6	0	5	0	0	5	0,33
5.	Griffon Vulture-*Gyps fulvus*	RBA, CITES, Bern, Bonn	5	0	2	0	0	0	4	11	0	5	0	0	6,75	0,45
6.	Common Pheasant-*Phasianus colchicus*	Bern	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2	5	0	0	4,75	0,31

Continued table

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7.	Common Wood Pigeon-*Columba palumbus*	-	78	6	18	21	0	0	0	48	61	9	28	15	71	4,73
8.	Rock Dove-*Columba livia*	Bern	2500	1400	700	91	1180	1100	200	850	580	970	50	129	2437,5	162,5
9.	Collared Dove-*Streptopelia decaocto*	Bern	10	29	0	0	4	8	14	0	0	0	9	3	19,25	1,28
10.	Eurasian Eagle Owl-*Bubo bubo*	CITES, Bern	5	4	5	0	4	2	0	5	1	3	0	2	7,75	0,51
11.	Long-eared Owl-*Asio otus*	CITES, Bern	0	5	0	6	2	4	6	4	5	6	4	0	10,5	0,7
12.	Little Owl-*Athene noctua*	CITES, Bern	11	7	13	0	17	21	11	7	10	16	0	6	29,75	1,98
13.	Tawny Owl-*Strix aluco*	CITES, Bern	23	12	2	8	21	19	0	0	4	14	4	0	26,75	1,78
14.	Eurasian Green Woodpecker-*Picus viridis*	Bern	1900	800	1211	1190	1200	250	950	670	581	618	280	100	2437,5	162,5
15.	Black Woodpecker-*Dryocopus martius*	Bern	17	6	28	4	2	0	11	19	10	12	8	0	29,25	1,95
16.	Great Spotted Woodpecker-*Dendrocopos major*	Bern	112	98	90	13	110	28	4	110	21	98	31	0	178,75	11,91
17.	Syrian Woodpecker-*Dendrocopos syriacus*	Bern	18	21	9	0	18	0	7	11	0	14	7	5	27,5	1,83
18.	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker-*Dendrocopos minor*	Bern	180	300	400	50	150	120	210	200	300	172	140	60	570,5	38,03
19.	Crested Lark-*Galerida cristata*	Bern	250	150	60	48	34	290	0	90	85	8	15	60	272,5	18,16
20.	Calandra Lark-*Melanocorypha calandra*	Bern	280	140	58	98	11	83	109	218	100	100	58	80	333,75	22,25
21.	WoodLark-*Lullula arborea*	Bern	304	280	630	110	215	298	300	285	218	315	298	7	815	54,33
22.	Jay-*Garrulus glandarius*	Bern	109	98	101	93	128	84	100	180	100	18	49	40	275	18,33
23.	Magpie-*Pica pica*	-	28	34	6	41	90	13	20	18	7	4	14	10	71,25	4,75
24.	Eurasian Jackdaw-*Coloeus monedula*	-	90	63	0	110	98	60	0	0	0	0	38	14	118,25	7,88
25.	Hooded Crow-*Corvus cornix*	-	58	60	30	26	48	54	32	43	24	22	25	28	112,5	7,5
26.	Raven-*Corvus corax*	Bern	13	8	14	11	5	6	0	19	19	8	6	4	28,25	1,88

Continued table

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
27.	White-throated Dipper-*Cinclus cinclus*	Bern	7	12	23	7	27	39	18	24	38	32	0	0	56,75	3,78
28.	Wren-*Troglodytes troglodytes*	Bern	91	72	4	19	71	62	41	23	18	24	0	0	106,25	7,08
29.	Dunnock-*Prunella modularis*	Bern	300	370	50	19	200	218	58	83	28	82	12	20	360	24
30.	Goldcrest-*Regulus regulus*	Bern, Bonn	218	281	147	58	300	218	48	50	81	32	11	6	362,5	24,16
31.	European Robin-*Erithacus rubecula*	Bern, Bonn	310	250	144	58	280	300	57	180	100	30	21	10	435	29
32.	Ring Ouzel-*Turdus torquatus*	Bern, Bonn	300	310	108	92	250	270	9	52	41	22	50	36	385	25,66
33.	Song Thrush-*Turdus philomelos*	Bern, Bonn	350	390	150	110	215	300	64	52	60	28	211	250	545	36,33
34.	Mistle Thrush-*Turdus viscivorus*	Bern, Bonn	110	128	190	78	210	180	30	31	38	22	79	39	283,75	18,91
35.	Long-tailed Tit-*Aegithalos caudatus*	Bern	231	281	28	139	220	180	70	42	53	48	70	68	357,5	23,83
36.	Caspian Tit-*Poecile hyrcanus*	Bern	6	7	8	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0,46
37.	Coal Tit-*Periparus ater*	Bern	660	590	260	320	450	500	48	90	31	28	113	120	802,5	53,5
38.	Great Tit-*Parus major*	Bern	1670	1700	870	290	1600	1570	409	210	115	156	280	230	2275	151,66
39.	Eurasian Nuthatch-*Sitta europaea*	Bern	1686	1900	910	310	2600	2000	100	38	44	61	70	81	2450	163,33
40.	Western Rock Nuthatch-*Sitta neumayer*	Bern	103	90	250	180	82	110	90	98	84	110	38	40	318,75	21,25
41.	Wallcreeper-*Tichodroma muraria*	Bern	38	41	18	29	39	21	14	18	21	22	10	9	70	4,66
42.	Eurasian Treecreeper-*Certhia familiaris*	-	1610	1715	500	500	1700	1915	250	210	370	120	400	310	2400	160
43.	House Sparrow-*Passer domesticus*	-	2500	2400	500	800	3000	2941	1000	300	350	109	1000	600	3875	258,33
44.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow-*Passer montanus*	Bern	1400	970	250	700	250	180	650	600	470	100	370	460	1600	106,66
45.	Rock Sparrow-*Petronia petronia*	Bern	13	21	73	47	0	15	62	74	18	110	0	0	108,25	7,21
46.	Common Chaffinch-*Fringilla coelebs*	Bern	2300	2800	360	280	2050	2000	161	209	400	280	700	810	3087,5	205,83
47.	Common Greenfinch-*Chloris chloris*	Bern	3000	2900	1000	800	3000	2730	500	160	210	180	900	720	4025	268,33
48.	Eurasian Siskin-*Spinus spinus*	Bern	1000	1200	500	300	950	1000	160	175	181	148	100	86	1450	96,66

Continued table

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
49.	European Goldfinch-*Carduelis carduelis*	Bern	388	450	200	380	410	300	200	90	75	89	100	78	690	46
50.	Eurasian Linnet-*Linaria cannabina*	Bern	1100	965	215	310	600	780	510	200	215	150	350	285	1420	94,66
51.	Eurasian Bullfinch-*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	Bern	0	0	50	14	0	31	80	50	58	29	0	0	78	5,2
52.	Hawfinch-*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*	Bern	700	950	770	410	915	900	270	600	715	410	150	120	1727,5	115,16
53.	Corn Bunting-*Emberiza calandra*	Bern	55	60	50	70	60	135	28	39	51	23	70	64	176,25	11,75
54.	Rock Bunting-*Emberiza cia*	Bern	6	11	48	50	40	90	5	18	20	5	0	0	73,25	4,88
Total			**50 species 17,5 % (26160 individuals)**	**48 species 16,3 % (24389 individuals)**	**50 species 7,4 % (11073 individuals)**	**46 species 5,5 % (8299 individuals)**	**47 species 15,3 % (22866 individuals)**	**49 species 14,3 % (21446 individuals)**	**42 species 4,6 % (6910 individuals)**	**50 species 4,4 % (6534 individuals)**	**46 species 4 % (6016 individuals)**	**51 species 3,3 % (4894 individuals)**	**43 species 4,1 % (6182 individuals)**	**40 species 3,3 % (5012 individuals)**	**37445,25**	
			149781 indviduums													

Note: RBA-The Red Book of Azerbaijan; **IUCN Red List-**The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List; **CITES, Bern, Bonn-**conventions.

Bursulum. This stationary is located 70 km from the center of the Lerik district.

We have recorded 50 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 4.4% (6534 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Babagil. This stationary is located 40 km to the Lankaran-Lerik highway, by the Lankaranchay in the Lerik district.

We have recorded 46 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 4% (6016 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Dillavu. This stationary is located in the Lerik district. We have registered 51 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 3.3% (4894 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Tukla. This stationary is located in the Masalli district.

We have recorded 43 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 4.1% (6182 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

Godman. This stationary is located in the Masalli district.

We have recorded 40 species of the 54 species of the birds in this area which we recorded in winter in the mountain-forest belt of Talish. In 2013-2016, in the mountain-forest belt of Talish, 3.3% (5012 individuals) of the total number of the birds (149781 individuals) settled in this area in winter (Table).

In general, the trophic conditions of the biotopes, the anthropogenic factors, the ecological and the ethological characteristics (the adaptation of the species to the specific conditions, the number of the enemies and the feed rivals, the number of shelters, the feed objects and access to them, the anthropogenic impacts, etc.) were influenced to the number and the density of the species in the researching stationary. The dominance of the Sparrows is due namely to their better adaptation to the natural conditions of the mountain-forest belt of Talish in the researching stationary.

RESULTS

1. 54 species belonging to the 6 groups were registered as part of the winter ornithocomplexes of the mountain-forest belt of Talish. The total number of the 54 species of the sedentary birds was 149781 individuals.
2. Of the 54 species that we recorded, 8 species are rare, 17 are ordinary, and 29 are numerous.
3. 54 registered species of the birds have global, national protection status and were included to the lists of CITES, Bonn and Bern conventions. Only 6 (11.1%) of the 54 species of the birds do not have protection status.
4. The main dominant birds according to the species composition and the total number of winter ornithocomplexes are the species belonging to the order Sparrows *(Passeriformes)*. These birds constitutes 66.7% of all registered species (36 species) and 84.3% of the total number of the birds (126209 individuals). The dominant species according to the number of the individuals is the Common Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris)*.
5. It was determined that the feeding (trophic conditions), protection from the enemies, overnight stay, the recreation conditions, including the anthropogenic factors as recreation in forest areas, tourist centers, cattle grazing, illegal bird hunting, road construction affects to the species composition and the density in the ornithocomplexes. All this factors, first of all, have a negative impact to the trophic relationships with the biotope and the numbers of the species that are more sensitive to the anthropogenic impacts and the threats.

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Talışın dağ-meşə qurşağında qış ornitokomplekslərini formalaşdıran oturaq quşların növ tərkibi və kəmiyyət göstəriciləri

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Məqalədə Talışın dağ-meşə qurşağında qışda 2013-2016-cı illərdə oturaq quşların növ tərkibi, sayı, sıxlığı, yayılması və onlara təsir edən amillər haqqında materiallar təqdim edilmişdir. Talışın dağ-meşə qurşağının qış ornitokomplekslərinin tərkibində 6 dəstəyə mənsub 54 növ qeydə alınmışdır. 54 növ oturaq quşun ümumi sayı 149781 fərd təşkil etmişdir. Qeydə aldığımız 54 növün 8-i nadir, 17-si adi saylı, 29-u isə çoxsaylıdır. Qeydə alınan 54 növ quş qlobal, milli mühafizə statuslarına malikdir, CITES, Bonn və Bern konvensiyalarının siyahılarına daxil edilmişdir. 54 növ quşun yalnız 6-sı (11,1%-i) mühafizə statusuna malik deyildir. Qış ornitokompleklərinin növ tərkibinə və ümumi saylarına görə əsas dominant quşlar Sərçəkimilər *(Passeriformes)* dəstəsinə mənsub olan növlərdir. Bu quşlar qeydə alınan bütün növlərin 66,7%-ini (36 növ), quşların ümumi sayının 84,3 %-ini (126209 fərd) təşkil edir. Fərdlərinin sayına görə dominant növ Adi yaşılcadır (*Chloris chloris)*. Müəyyən edildi ki, ornitokomplekslərdə quşların növ tərkibinə və sıxlığına yemlənmə (trofik şərait), düşmənlərindən qorunma, gecələmə, istirahət şəraitləri, o cümlədən, meşə zonalarında istirahət, turizm mərkəzlərinin, mal-qara otarılması, qanunsuz quş ovu, yol çəkilişi kimi antropogen amillər təsir gostərir. Bütün bu amillər, ilk növbədə, antropogen təsirlərə, təhlükələrə daha həssas olan növlərin biotopla trofik əlaqələrinə, saylarına mənfi təsir göstərir.

Açar sözlər: *Talış dağları, oturaq quşlar, növ, say, sıxlıq, faktor*

Видовой состав и показатели количества оседлых птиц, формирующих зимние орнитокомплексы в горно-лесном поясе Талыша

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В статье представлены материалы о видовом составе, численности, плотности, распространении оседлых птиц и влияющих на них факторах в горно-лесном поясе Талыша в зимние периоды 2013-2016 годов. В составе зимних орнитокомплексов Талышского горно-лесного пояса отмечены включенные в 6 отрядов 54 вида. Общее число особей из 54 видов оседлых птиц составило 149781. Из 54 видов, отмеченных нами, 8 видов, являются редкими, 17 – обычными, 29 – многочисленными. 54 зарегистрированных вида птиц имеют глобальный национальный охранный статус и включены в списки CITES, Боннской и Бернской конвенций. Лишь 6 (11,1%) из 54 видов птиц не имеют охранного статуса. По видовому составу и общему количеству зимних орнитокомплексов основными доминирующими птицами являются виды, относящиеся к отряду Воробьиных *(Passeriformes)*. Эти птицы составляют 66,7% (36 виды) от всех зарегистрированных видов и 84,3% (126209 особей) от общего числа птиц. Доминирующим видом по количеству особей является Обыкновенная зеленушка *(Chloris chloris)*. Основными ограничивающими факторами являются вырубка деревьев в связи со строительством газопроводов и дорог к населенным пунктам, создание зон отдыха и туризма в лесных массивах, выпас скота и незаконная охота на птиц. Такое антропогенное воздействие приводит к постепенному сокращению количества местообитаний и мест кормежки уязвимых видов.

Ключевые слова: *Талышские горы, оседлые птицы, вид, численность, плотность, фактор*